

CHILD TELLS TALE  
OF BEGGAR'S LIFE

Florence Speakman, of Capital, Found in Baltimore.

## FATHER GOES IN SEARCH

Foster Parent Lived on Fruits of Girl's Begging.

The American Salvation Army Now Cares for Eight-year-old Girl Who Was Trained to Be an Expert Beggar—Her Own Father Had Allowed Her to Be Taken to a Home Where She Was Promised Good Care.

Edward C. Speakman, of 150 E street northeast, driven almost frantic by recent knowledge of suffering and brutal treatment endured by his eight-year-old daughter, will to-day claim the child whom he gave away more than two months ago to a man who forced her to support him and a woman by begging.

Florence Speakman, eight years old, the little girl who has been forced by a Fagan to lead a miserable existence since she was given away, is now in the care of the American Salvation Army in Baltimore. The father will leave here to-day to claim the child and bring her home with him.

Frank McDonald, alias Adams, who was entrusted with the care of the Speakman girl by her father, was sentenced in Baltimore to two years in jail. Mrs. Barbara McDonald, alias Adams, is locked up in the Western police station in Baltimore to await a further hearing. McDonald says his wife opposed his treatment of Florence Speakman and was not to blame for the child's suffering.

Edward Speakman says he had no idea his daughter would be subjected to the treatment she received. He is the father of two other daughters, who are being cared for at the American Salvation Army home in this city. Speakman says he is determined to obtain his daughter's release, and bring her to Washington.

## Will Claim the Child.

The girl was given in charge of the Society for the Protection of Children, when the police heard her story, after the arrest of McDonald. The child was then given to the American Salvation Army, and the army's representatives in this city left here last night to claim the girl.

According to advice received by Maj. Smalley, of the American Salvation Army, the Baltimore authorities of the army declined to release the child. Speakman was informed of this by a reporter for The Washington Herald.

"I will go to law, if necessary, to get my daughter back," he said. "I gave her to McDonald because he told me his daughter died from the bursting of a blood vessel when she accidentally swallowed a nickel. He said he was a traveling man, and wanted a child to stay with his wife when he went away on business trips."

"He went to the American Salvation Army Home in this city to find a child, and when he saw Florence he came to me and asked me for her. I would not give up my daughter, but he hounded me for five weeks. The girl's mother is dead, and I took my three daughters from the Washington Orphan Asylum and placed them in charge of the American Salvation Army until I could start a home again."

"McDonald kept after me. He followed me here to my work, and hung around for hours, arguing and pleading for the girl. He brought his wife with him, and she pleaded for the girl, saying she was lonesome after the death of her own child."

"Mrs. McDonald, as I knew her, appeared to be kind and a motherly woman. She was pretty, and about twenty-seven years old. She took me to a house at 123 A street northeast, and said it was her home, where Florence would live with them if I gave her to them. The house was nicely furnished, and a good home."

"They promised to send the child to school, see that she received medical treatment, and do things for her which I could not do, and so, after they had kept me for five weeks, I gave in and told them they could have the child."

"She left the American Salvation Army Home and went to live with them at the house in A street. I went to see her there every day, and McDonald and his wife appeared to like the child. One day, about two months ago, I went to the house, and McDonald, his wife, and Florence had disappeared. I did not report the affair to the police, but trusted to Mrs. Smalley to find my daughter."

"Then followed the arrest of McDonald and his wife in Baltimore, and the finding of Florence. I intend to have her back, and I am going to do everything in my power to regain possession of my daughter. They say some benevolent persons have decided to take charge of the girl and care for her, but I shall be in a position to do that myself in a short time."

**Tragedy of Young Life.**  
The story told by Florence Speakman reads like a romance from Hugo or Dickens. It is a tale of suffering on the part of a little child that seems almost impossible in these days of police protection and organized charity. The truth of the child's story was admitted by both McDonald and his wife.

It deals with the brutal treatment of a child who lost her mother when an infant, who was placed in a Washington orphanage, and later taken to the home of the American Salvation Army, where she was turned over to Mr. and Mrs. McDonald.

Teaching her to beg, they visited several large cities, living on the results of her work. After operating in one town, they would move on to the next, so as to avoid arousing the suspicion of the police or organized charities. They had

Continued on Page 2, Column 2.

## WEATHER FORECAST.

For the District of Columbia and Maryland—Rain to-day; rain or snow and colder to-morrow; high southerly, shifting to south-westerly, winds.

## HERALD NEWS SUMMARY.

- TELEGRAPHIC.  
1—Oil Trust to Win Big Suit.  
1—Root Would Welcome Leadership.  
1—Mueller Admits Killing Fiancee.  
2—Loeb Assumes His New Duties.  
3—Counsel Pleads for Coopers.  
4—Roosevelt Family Going Abroad.  
4—George T. Oliver to Succeed Knox.

## LOCAL.

- 1—Washington Child Taught to Beg.  
2—Hinton R. Helper Commits Suicide.  
2—Pharmacists Uphold Dr. Wiley.  
2—Improvements in Telegraph Wires.  
3—Historical Society Holds Meetings.  
4—New Cabinet Withholds Facts.  
4—Tariff Revision Upheld by Taft.

FAREWELL BANQUET  
GIVEN DICKINSON

Taft's War Secretary Says He Is Still a Democrat.

## MAKES CLEAR HIS OWN STATUS

Takes Occasion to Refer to Open Letter Issued by Former Mayor Dunne. President Tolman, of Ironclad Club, Says New President Cares Nothing for Partisan Affiliations.

Chicago, March 9.—The appointment of Jacob M. Dickinson as Secretary of War under President Taft and the candidacy of Carter H. Harrison for mayor of Chicago were the two things celebrated to-night at a banquet given by the Ironclad Club at the new quarters on La Salle street.

The dinner was given in honor of Mr. Dickinson. President Edgar B. Tolman, who presided as toastmaster, dwelt especially on this point and cited the selection of Mr. Dickinson, a Tennessee Democrat, and of Franklin MacVeagh, a lifelong Democrat, as proof that the new President cares nothing for partisan affiliations.

Secretary Dickinson, who will leave for Washington Thursday to take up his new offices, seemed embarrassed by the bringing of politics into the talks of the evening. Nevertheless, he took occasion to refer to the open letter issued by ex-Mayor Dunne and said that he wished to make clear his own status.

## A Democrat for Forty Years.

"For nearly forty years, and for much of that time with great activity, I have been a worker in the Democratic party," said Mr. Dickinson. "I have never sought from it the reward of office or any other benefit, direct or indirect. Like many Southern men, I have at times disapproved its policies, but on account of local conditions did not actively oppose it. I have several times remained away from the polls, especially when Mr. Bryan was a candidate for President, but I never voted any but the Democratic ticket. I did not vote for President Taft, and I did not vote against him. I feel that my appointment to a position on his Cabinet is more a compliment to the South and to the Democratic party and to myself."

## MRS. LEAVITT GETS DIVORCE.

Bryan's Daughter Sued Husband on Ground of Nonsupport.

Lincoln, Neb., March 9.—Ruth Bryan Leavitt, eldest daughter of W. J. Bryan, was this afternoon granted a divorce from W. H. Leavitt, the artist.

## ALFONSO SAVES CHILD.

Good Horsemanship of King Prevent Injury—Crowd Applauds.

Madrid, March 9.—King Alfonso's skillful horsemanship has just saved him from the probable remorse of killing a child. While visiting at Cueta, a little girl approached him to present a petition on behalf of her imprisoned father.

She fell beneath the feet of the king's horse. The onlookers shouted in terror, but the king spurred his horse to jump, and the animal cleared the child.

His majesty then dismounted and carried and comforted the girl, amid the applause of the crowd.

## FIND CAVE NEAR SARANAC.

New York Men Explore Wonderful Chambers in Adirondack Peak.

Saranac Lake, N. Y., March 9.—Kennedy's celebrated Mammoth cave has a rival in Great Adirondack Cave, that has been discovered by Capt. E. E. Thomas, of Saranac Lake.

The mouth of the Adirondack cave is on top of a peak known as "W" Mountain, about three miles from Standish. In the opinion of Capt. Thomas, it is of volcanic origin. He and a company went in about 1,000 feet, and expect to explore further when they are properly equipped.

They found a succession of rooms, large and small, with passages radiating in every direction, but all looking downward.

Two Spanish Admirals Ill.

Madrid, March 9.—While Vice Admiral Cervera, who commanded the Spanish fleet that was destroyed near Santiago, is only kept alive at Puerto Real by the use of oxygen and hypodermic injections, Vice Admiral Montojo, whose fleet was destroyed or captured by Rear Admiral Dewey at Manila, is ill here with pneumonia.

Palm in Jardiner, 50c.

Worth 91 and 93c. Blackstone, 11th &amp; H.

MUELLER ADMITS  
HE KILLED GIRL

Miss Reed's Lover Claims It Was Accidental.

## MURDER, ASSERT POLICE

Believe the Girl Was Slain to Avoid Wedding.

Detectives Claim that Mueller Deliberately Planned Miss Reed's Death and Wrote Letter and Sent Candy to Avert Suspicion from Himself—Held by Coroner's Jury, and Is Cool and Indifferent.

## Special to The Washington Herald.

Baltimore, Md., March 9.—That Joseph Mueller, lacking nerve to break his engagement with Jennie Reed, and in order to free himself of his sweetheart, deliberately planned her destruction by taking her out for a moonlight stroll and shot her down, is the police belief and solution of the thrilling tragedy at Mount Washington last night.

The police arrived at this conclusion by the confession of Mueller himself, who says he killed the girl accidentally while shooting at a supposed highwayman, and by their investigation and admissions made by the prisoner when he was put through the "third degree."

The police also believe that Mueller sent himself the box of poisoned candy, and wrote himself the letter attacking the girl's character to avert suspicion from himself.

Following his statement to the city detective department, Mueller was removed to Arlington, near the scene of the killing, where he was arraigned this afternoon before Judge Evans, who committed him to jail, without bail, on the charge of murder.

## Mueller's Confession.

The following is the statement in full made by Mueller at the detectives' office:

"I left home at 7:30 in company with my intended wife, Jennie Reed. We boarded a Gay street car and transferred to a Mount Washington car at Calvert and Baltimore streets. When we came to the end at the Pikeville car above Mount Washington, Jennie told me she wished to get off. I asked if she would wait until we got to Electric Park and she answered no."

"When we got off the car I crossed the road at the station and told Jennie to go up to the house herself, as I did not think it was proper for me to go with her. She said it was too dark. I went to go with her. I pulled my revolver out and went with her. She was walking ahead of me, we had to walk in a path. I then saw a shadow in the woods which frightened me. I then raised the pistol and shot right at the shadow, as I thought there was harm coming to me. I was so excited that I fired the second shot at the same place. I saw Jennie Reed fall to the ground, and when I saw what I had done I ran away to Mr. Merriam's house. I threw the pistol away after I realized what I had done. I had no intention of throwing the pistol away, but being so nervous I did not know what I was doing."

"When I arrived at Mr. Merriam's house I was so nervous and excited that I did not know what I said or what I did until I recovered my strength. I then realized that I had done wrong."

"Mr. Merriam took his pistol and another man took his gun and we went where Jennie was lying and found she was dead. I had two pistols—one which I left in my trunk and the one I took with me, in case I should meet with any trouble, which I expected since I received the poisoned candy."

"I was sober and have always been a good tempered, steady, I thought there was no harm in protecting myself with a revolver."

"This confession has been made of my own free will and accord, and no inducement or threats made to me."

## Deliberate Murder, Say Police.

Capt. of Detectives A. J. Pumphrey believes that Mueller wanted to get rid of Jennie Reed, and in order to do so, had written the letter attacking her character, and sent himself poisoned candy with which to make a bluff at suicide. The couple had set their wedding day for April 14, and were furnishing their future home."

Capt. Pumphrey declared to-day, after helping put Mueller through a "third degree," that he believed that Mueller did not want to marry the girl, and that he had planned a long way ahead to prevent it."

"I have always believed," said the captain, "that Mueller did not receive that box of candy from any one save himself. I believe he sent it to himself. It was part of his plan."

## Planned to Get Rid of Girl.

"He did not want to marry the girl, and wanted to get out of it in some way. He was not man enough to break the engagement, and so planned all this skillfully. I asked him if he did not like sweetstuffs, and he said, 'Oh, yes, sometimes I eat a half a box of candy at one time.' I then asked him how it was when he received the box of poisoned candy, and he told me only one piece of candy."

"On one piece of candy?" I asked him.

"Almost two," he replied. "It made me violently ill."

"I don't believe you," I told him, "because one piece of candy, or two, would not have made you violently ill. You know it was poisoned, because you sent it to yourself, and that's why you only ate one or two pieces of it."

## Promised Sweetheart \$100.

"That's my theory about the candy. Well, he promised the girl \$100 to buy her trousseau, and it was planned to get married April 14. He had already engaged apartments at Greenmount avenue and Chase street, where they were to

Continued on Page 3, Column 6.

## To-day at Sloan's.

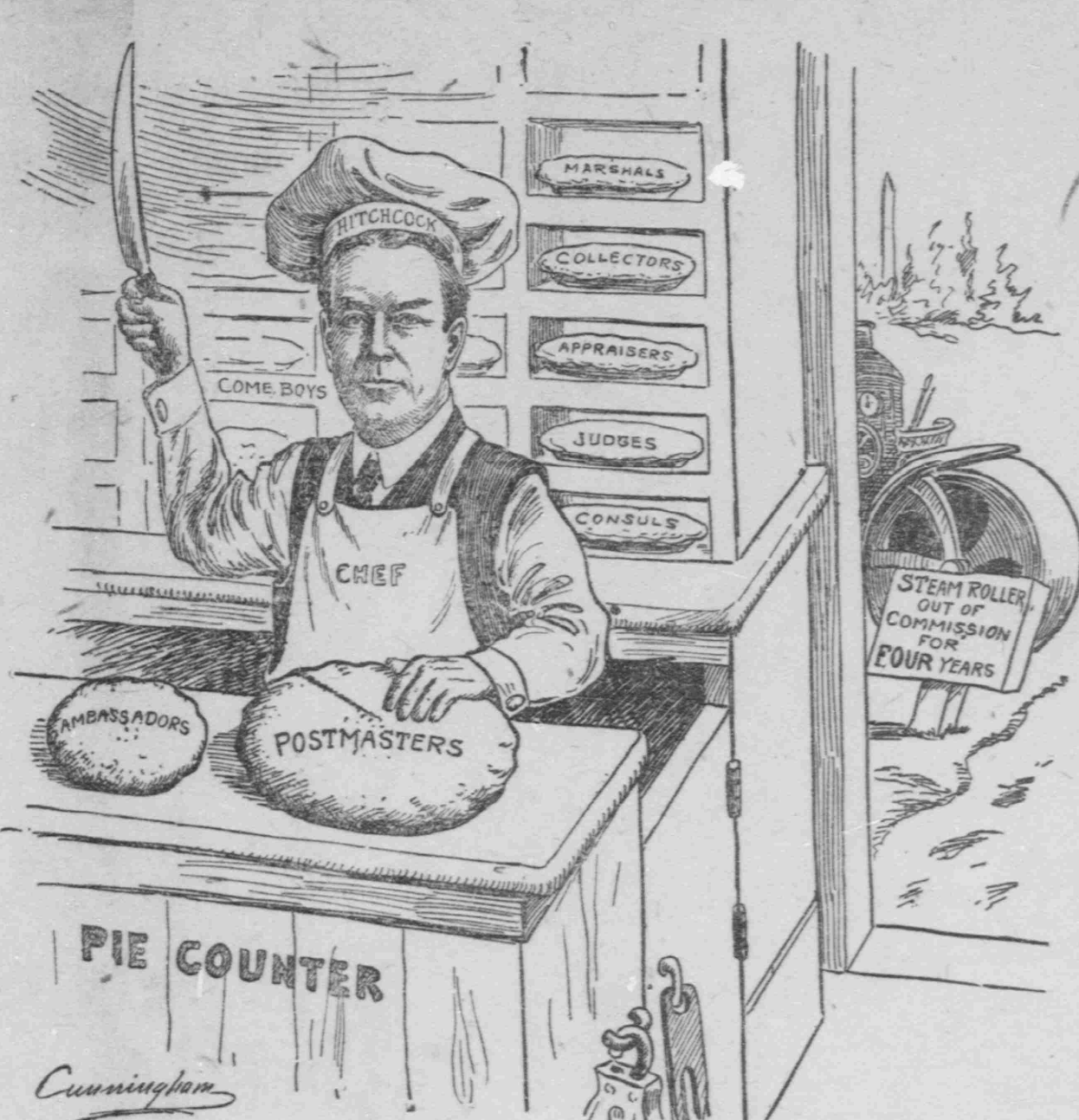
The Forest sale opens to-day at Sloan's, 1407 G st., with sessions at 11 and 3. Rich mahogany furniture in the old shapes, rugs, paintings, prints, curios, books, etc., are included. Rooms comfortable and seats provided.

Through Parlor Car to Atlantic City.

Via Pennsylvania Railroad, beginning Thursday, March 11. Leaves Washington 8:30 p. m. week days; arrives Atlantic City 5:30 p. m. via Delaware River Bridge Route.

The Dramatic Treat of the Season.

May Robson, "Aunt Mary," the Columbia.



## OIL TRUST TO ESCAPE FINE

Not a Harriman Man on Southwestern Road Board.

St. Louis, March 9.—E. H. Harriman failed to oust George J. Gould from control of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern, and the Missouri Pacific railroads, when their annual meetings were held here to-day. It had been rumored that the new board of directors for each road would be made up of Harriman men. Instead, the Gould men held control, and not a Harriman man was elected.

Mr. Gould is a member of both boards.

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## BROTHER OF SENATOR DEAD.

Samuel Elkins, Postmaster of Columbia, Mo., Stricken.

A telegram was received at the Post-office Department yesterday announcing the death of Postmaster Samuel Elkins, of Columbia, Mo.

Mr. Elkins had been postmaster at Columbia twelve years.

He was a brother of Senator Elkins, of West Virginia.

## IGNORES GRAFT SUMMONS.

Pittsburgh Millionaire, Wanted as Witness, Sails for Europe.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 9.—Dallas C. Byers, millionaire, who is wanted in the antic-trust case as a witness, has sailed for Europe, after having received summons from District Attorney Blankley to appear before him. Mayor George W. Guthrie had made a public statement to the effect that a member of the firm of T. M. Byers & Co., the big pipe manufacturers, had approached him, Mayor Guthrie, and offered to pay the city \$25,000 to vacate South Seventh street near Bingham street.

Later the Byers company had an ordinance introduced into the council, closing the street. Mayor Guthrie vetoed the ordinance, which was immediately passed over his veto by the council. It is alleged about \$10,000 was paid to councilmen for the passage of the measure.

F. M. Evers, a brother of the absent man, sent a letter to the district attorney, explaining that his brother had gone to Europe for his health, and may be back in five or six weeks.

## GIRL HORSEWHIPS LAWYER.

Affair Creates a Sensation in the Financial District of Boston.

Boston, March 9.—After starting to chastise Llewellyn Puffer, a Natick schoolmaster, in the presence of a crowd of passengers of a Boston and Albany train from that town to-day, Jessie B. McClellan, a twenty-five-year-old stenographer, horsewhipped Attorney George A. Sweetser in State street.

Lawyer Sweetser represented John F. Moore, a wealthy leather merchant, whom Miss McClellan sued for breach of promise two years ago. The young woman met the lawyer at the door of the building on his way to his office. Pulling the horsewhip from the folds of her skirt, she started for him. She lashed him twice with the whip. Then she struck him over the head with the butt.

The affair created a sensation in the financial district. Taken by surprise, the lawyer was unable at first to snatch the whip away from the girl. A crowd quickly gathered.

As soon as the whip had been taken away from the young woman, she was escorted to the police station.

## HOLBROOK SERIOUSLY ILL.

Oldest ex-Governor Confined to His Vermont Home.

Battleboro, Vt., March 9.—Former Gov. Frederick Holbrook, the oldest living ex-governor in the United States, is critically ill at his home in Walnut street. He was taken ill with bronchitis Sunday and was unable to take his daily outing, and yesterday he was confined to his bed. Former Gov. Holbrook was ninety-six years old last month.

## Negro Escapes from Mob.

Hartwell, Ga., March 9.—As a mob was about to lynch Harrison Sloan, a negro, for assaulting Mrs. Sarah Reeson, wife of a prominent planter, the negro jerked loose from his captors, knocked several of them down, and in the confusion that followed made his escape.

## Lieut. King and Command Staff.

Manila, March 9.—Lieut. Harry L. King, of the First Cavalry, and his detachment, who last week were reported to have been massacred by head hunters in the mountains of Northern Luzon, and for whom consular help have been searching, arrived safely to-day at Baler, capital of the province of Principe, after a prolonged but uneventful trip through the mountains.

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## KEEL OF WAR SHIP LAID.

Florida Will Surpass Any Vessel in the World.

New York, March 9.—The keel of the newest and greatest of battle ships, the United States ship Florida—displacement 21,835 tons, length 539 feet, and estimated cost \$6,000,000—was laid this morning at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

About 500 persons, including most everybody of note in the navy yard, gathered there this morning to see the first formal incident in the Florida's career. Read Admiral Casper F. Goodrich was in charge of the ceremonies. He made a brief speech, telling of the significance of the occasion, and then his little daughter, Elsie, and Marion and Margaret Baxter, daughters of Naval Constructor Baxter, took the ceremony in their own hands. They walked into the ways and hung a silver horseshoe on the keel plates.

Aided by William Calder, the young son of Representative Calder, of Brooklyn, they placed the first rivets in the bow plates.

The vessel must be completed by January 24, 1911, in order to come up to the requirement of the Washington Bureau of Construction.

The Florida will carry ten 12-inch guns and sixteen 5-inch guns. All of the former can be fired in one broadside. Her displacement is greater than that of the two latest British ships and the latest Japanese ship by over 2,000 tons, and greater than that of Germany's latest by over 3,000 tons.

She has a sister ship, the Utah, whose construction is authorized elsewhere.

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## LOCAL OPTION BILL DEFEATED.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 9.—The house of representatives of the Pennsylvania legislature to-night defeated the local option bill by a vote of 125 to 68. Local option was the chief issue in the campaign last fall, when the legislature was elected.

## Pope Able to Sit Up.

Rome, March 9.—The Pope left his bed for four hours to-day. He gave an audience to the Bishop of St. Cloud, Minn., who subsequently said that his holiness looked well. He coughs frequently, but is cheerful.

## Blackstone's famous home-grown.

Violets—always in demand. 14th and H.

## ROOT WELCOMES LEADERSHIP

Senator Gives Members of Republican Club His Views on Bossism.

New York, March 9.—Senator Elihu Root, who was the guest of honor at a dinner given by the Republican Club in the Fourteenth street clubhouse to-night, made an appeal for harmony in the Republican party in this State, which was listened to by many prominent politicians who are avowedly opposed to Gov. Hughes' direct nominations scheme, and to the governor himself.

While disclaiming the ambition to become the leader of the Republican party in the accepted political sense of the word, the Senator promised that he would do everything in his power to bring about the desired harmony.

"Your President," said the Senator, "has been good enough to make an observation regarding an anticipation that I may grow to be the leader of the party in this State. I disclaim any ambition to be what is ordinarily called a leader, but I believe in party organization, which necessarily involves leadership; and I should be glad if the exercise of the powers that have come to me should enable me to promote an effective, a genuine, a harmonious, and a successful organization of my party in this State."

Mr. Root said that he would like to see the great responsibility of the party for the conduct of the government both in this State and in the nation kept constantly in mind.

## NOTED FRENCH WOMAN DEAD.

Mrs. Prevost Was on Intimate Terms with Prominent Families.

Baltimore, Md., March 9.—Mrs. Eurali Prevost, aged eighty-three, one of the most distinguished French women in this country, being a daughter of the late Thomas Joseph Bissard, who was secretary to Napoleon Bonaparte, died here to-day.

She was the wife of Eurali Prevost, who was the grandson of the late Francis Prevost, judge of the court of appeals in Paris, during the reign of Louis XIV. Her eldest son, Eurali married Miss Emily de R. W. Gardner, granddaughter of the late Gen. de Bar Walbach, and great-granddaughter of Baron Count de Barth Marquis de Lind, of Paris.

The father of Mrs. Prevost came to Baltimore during the Napoleonic disturbances and became a professor in French. The family for years were on intimate terms with the exclusive French families of New Orleans, Washington, New York, and Philadelphia.

## HAYWARD FOR POST-OFFICE.

Consider Offer of Place as Assistant Postmaster General.

William Hayward, of Nebraska City, Nebraska, secretary of the Republican National Committee, has been asked to become First Assistant Postmaster General.

Mr. Hayward is said to be the handsomest man in his State. He is only thirty-two years old, but has had considerable experience in politics and the law. His selection was due mainly to Postmaster General Hitchcock. Mr. Hayward was offered the place as much on account of his ability as for his services to the Republican party. He has the offer under advisement.

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TARIFF REVISION  
TAFT'S CHIEF PLAN

Believes Insurgents' Fight Would Delay Action.

## LONG CONFERENCE HELD